

Senate Resolution 35 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SR 34)

1 A Resolution honoring Iowa's community colleges on the
2 50th anniversary of the enactment of Senate File
3 550.

4 WHEREAS, 50 years ago, Senate File 550, which
5 provided for the establishment and operation of area
6 community colleges, was introduced; and

7 WHEREAS, Senate File 550 was passed by the Senate
8 47-11 on May 26, 1965, and was floor managed by Senator
9 John "Jack" Kibbie, whose advocacy for Iowa's community
10 colleges established him as the honorary "Father of
11 Iowa's Community Colleges"; and

12 WHEREAS, the bill was guided through the House of
13 Representatives by Representatives James T. Caffrey and
14 William Smith, passing the House by a vote of 80-24 on
15 May 28, 1965; and

16 WHEREAS, Governor Harold Hughes signed Senate File
17 550 into law on June 7, 1965, thus creating a new
18 community college system in Iowa; and

19 WHEREAS, Iowa's workforce today represents nearly 25
20 million credit hours and over 138 million contact hours
21 of past and present community college training; and

22 WHEREAS, when nearly 34 percent of open positions in
23 Iowa require an education level equal to an associate
24 degree or higher, Iowa's community colleges are
25 well-positioned to provide Iowans with the education
26 and training necessary to fill these positions; and

27 WHEREAS, students who receive an associate degree

1 earn on average 18.4 percent more 10 years after
2 completion than high school graduates; and

3 WHEREAS, spending by Iowa's community colleges and
4 community college students contributes to the creation
5 of 18,000 jobs across the state and \$683.9 million
6 annually in total labor income; and

7 WHEREAS, Iowa's community colleges have provided
8 skills training for high-demand, high-paying,
9 high-skilled occupations and career enhancement
10 opportunities for Iowa workers for 50 years; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2014, over 75,000 individuals
12 participated in Iowa's community college programs
13 supported by the Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation
14 Fund, and over 11,000 individuals were served by
15 community colleges through the Iowa New Jobs Training
16 Program, the Iowa Jobs Training Program, and the
17 Accelerated Career Education Program; NOW THEREFORE,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
19 congratulates Iowa's 15 community colleges on the 50th
20 anniversary of the enactment of Senate File 550 and
21 thanks the community colleges, their past and present
22 administrators, faculty and staff, board members, and
23 foundations, for improving the state's outlook and the
24 conditions for Iowa's citizens for 50 years.